

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6267

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN ANTI-EMIGRANT CAMPAIGN

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 6351; (B) BUCHAREST 6695

1. SUMMARY. TAKING ITS CUE FROM CEAUSESCU'S DECEMBER 3 SPEECH TO THE NATIONALITIES COUNCILS WHICH CHARACTERIZED EMIGRANTS AS DESERTERS (REF A), ROMANIAN MEDIA HAVE SINCE LATE DECEMBER, MOUNTED AN ANTI-EMIGRATION CAMPAIGN WHOSE OBJECT IS TO DAMPEN THE EXPECTATIONS OF THOSE CITIZENS WHO MIGHT TAKE THE LANGUAGE OF THE HELSINKI ACCORD OR MFN TOO LITERALLY. END SUMMARY.

2. THEMES. CAMPAIGN BLENDS (1) CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN WEST WHICH, IT IS CLAIMED, PREVENTS EMIGRANTS FROM FINDING WORK THERE; (2) MASSIVE DOSES OF PATRIOTIC PROSE AND POETRY, INCLUDING  
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OCCASIONAL NASTY VERSE WITH TITLES SUCH AS "TO THE TRAITORS"

(ROMANIA LITERARA, DECEMBER 25, 1975); (3) AND INTERVIEWS WITH GOR CITIZENS WHO LEFT BUT SUBSEQUENTLY REALIZED THEIR "MISTAKE". INTELLECTUALS, ALWAYS SUSPECT, ARE REMINDED OF THEIR DUTY TOWARDS THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE ("PATRIOTISM OF INTELLECTUALS", ROMANIA LIBERA, JANUARY 15, 1976) WHILE THOSE WHO HAVE DEFECTED ARE VILIFIED (SCINTEIA TINERETULUI, JANUARY 10, 1976), IN A TIE-IN WITH ALSO CURRENT AND CONTINUING DRIVE AGAINST RFE (REF B). PROBLEMS OF NON-JEWISH EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL ARE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED. LEITMOTIF THROUGHOUT IS "ROOTLESSNESS" OF "A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND".

3. SOME EXAMPLES. A YOUNG GIRL MARRIES A FOREIGNER WHOSE PROMISES OF RICHES REMAIN UNFULFILLED. SHE IS SUBSEQUENTLY ABANDONED, "FAR FROM HER COUNTRY, PARENTS, RELATIVES AND CHILDHOOD FRIENDS". (FAMILIA FROM ORADEA, DECEMBER 1975).

-- TOLD SHE WILL BE A PRINCESS IN THE WEST", ANOTHER YOUNG GIRL CONSENTS TO BE SMUGGLED OUT OF THE COUNTRY, HIDDEN IN A FOREIGNER'S CAR. THANKS TO THE VIGILANCE OF THE BORDER GUARDS, BOTH ARE CAUGHT AND SENTENCED TO PRISON TERMS. (FAMILIA, DEC 1975.)

-- AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "LETTERS HOME" RELATES ALLEGED PLIGHT OF CHRISTIAN SPOUSES OF ROMANIAN JEWS WHO HAVE GONE TO ISRAEL, INCLUDING PRESSURE TO CONVERT TO JUDAISM, FORCED NAME CHANGES, AND CHRISTIAN CHILDREN NOT BEING ALLOWED IN SCHOOLS, ETC. MORAL: "WE HOPE THE WORDS IN THESE TROUBLED LETTERS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF MEDITATION FOR WHOEVER HAS THE SLIGHTEST PREDISPOSITION TOWARDS EMPTY ILLUSION. IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD, ILLUSIONS ARE COSTLY". (FLACARA, JANUARY 10, 1976.) SIMILAR ARTICLE ALSO APPEARS IN ROMANIA LIBERA (JANUARY 8) HEADLINED BY LAMENT "WHAT HAS HAPPENED HAS MADE ME REGRET MY MISTAKE EVEN MORE".

-- SCINTEIA (JANUARY 8) HAS ARTICLE ENTITLED "EMIGRANTS, WE HAVE NO NEED OF YOU" ABOUT DIFFICULTIES OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN FRG. SCINTEIA (JANUARY 11) HAS SIMILAR ARTICLE COMPLETE WITH PICTURES OF FOREIGN WORKERS LIVING IN HOVELS AND OTHERS BEING SENT HOME.

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-- INTERVIEW WITH A BEREAVED FATHER WHO CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SON, NOW IN FRG, WOULD BETRAY HIS DUTIES TO COUNTRY, PARENTS AND FRIENDS. (SCINTEIA TINERETULUI, JANUARY 10, 1976).

-- NUMEROUS ARTICLES TRACE THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF ROMANIANS WHO LEFT THE COUNTRY FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS (MONEY, FAMILY PROBLEMS, ETC) AND COULD NOT FIND WORK OR ADJUST TO THE FOREIGN ENVIRONMENT (ONE IS TITLED "I NO LONGER HAVE A NAME.

I'M CALLED THE FOREIGNER", ANOTHER "MAN CANT LIVE WITHOUT ROOTS").  
ALL FINALLY RETURN TO ROMANIA WITH THE HELP OF SYMPATHETIC ROMANIAN  
OFFICIALS ABROAD TO RESUME THEIR LIFE AMONG FREINDS AND FAMILY,  
AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. (SCINTEIA TINERETULUI, JANUARY 13;  
ROMANIA LIBERA, JANUARY 13 AND 15; FLACARA, JANUARY 10.)

4. ALSO SINCE MID-DECEMBER MANY EMIGRANT APPLICANTS HAVE HAD TO  
ENDURE A SESSION WITH A TEAM OF OFFICIALS ASSEMBLED BY THE LOCAL  
PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, WHOSE TASK IS TO DISSUADE THE POTENTIAL EMIGRANT  
FROM PROCEEDING FURTHER WITH HIS APPLICATION. HERETOFORE, THIS  
FUNCTION WAS PERFORMED BY THE INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISE DIRECTOR  
OR A LOCAL PARTY OFFICIAL.

5. MEANWHILE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED OF NEW DIRECTIVE FROM RCP CC  
TO MEDIA THAT EVERY ARTICLE, REVIEW, COMMENTARY, ON WESTERN CULTURE  
MUST STRESS IDEA OF EVIL, ALIENATION, SOLITUDE OF MAN, DESTRUCTION  
OF HUMAN PERSONALITY AND WHOLE TRAGEDY OF MAN IN WESTERN TYPE OF  
CIVILIZATION, AS WELL AS DEGRADATION OF CONCEPT OF BEAUTY AND  
GREAT SPIRITUAL VALUES. NAMES AND TITLES, I.E., INFORMATION,  
SHOULD NOT BE AVOIDED BUT ON CONTRARY MENTIONED AND ANALYZED  
FROM THIS VIEWPOINT.

6. COMMENT. THE SCOPE AND INTENSITY OF THE CURRENT EFFORT  
SUGGESTS THAT THE GOR IS DEEPLY CONCERNED LEST THOSE CONCESSIONS  
ALREADY GRANTED UNDER PRESSURE IN THE AREA OF EMIGRATION BE  
MISINTERPRETED BY ITS OWN POPULACE AND GENERATE A MULTITUDE OF  
NEW DEMANDS. WHILE ROMANIA REMAINS RELUCTANT TO COORDINATE ITS  
POST-CSCE IDEOLOGICAL DEFENSE MECHANISM WITH THE SOVIETS AND THE  
REST OF EASTERN EUROPE, ITS NEED FOR SUCH A DEVICE IS NO LESS  
REAL, AS IS SHOWN BY THIS LATEST AGITPROP EXERCISE, AS WELL AS BY  
THE PARALLEL CAMPAIGN AGAINST RADIO FREE EUROPE. LATTER HAS NOT LET  
UP AND CONTINUES BY PRESS AND RADIO PERSONAL ATTACKS ON RFE  
PERSONALITIES AND THEIR BROADCASTS, LATEST EXAMPLE OF WHICH IS  
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ENTITLED, "RELICS OF THE COLD WAR" (CONTEMPORANUL, JAN 16).  
THE REPORTED CC "DIRECTIVE" (ABOVE) APPARENTLY EXTENDS AND  
DEEPENS THE "ANTI-CONSUMER SOCIETY THEME" WHICH BEGAN TO GET  
SPECIAL EMPHASIS IN A FEW SUCH "RE-IDEOLOGIZED" PUBLICATIONS  
AS CONTEMPORANUL IN 1974. THE GOR WILL NOW FACE SHARPENED  
CONTRADICTION BETWEEN FOREIGN POLICY REQUIREMENT FOR GOOD RELATIONS  
WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES (WHICH HAS BEEN A RESTRAINT ON THIS SORT OF  
AGITPROP BEFORE)  
AND THE INTERNAL NEED TO MAINTAIN CONTROL, I.E. THE CLASSIC  
DETENTE CONUNDRUM.  
BARNES

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## Message Attributes

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